called upon to submit a scheme for amplifying the operations of his department. His proposals have been received and they are to the effect that, in the farms at Trivandrum and Quilon, the line of work should be changed from demonstration to that of experiment, that two more agricultural farms should be opened, one in the Padmanabhapuram division and one in the Kottayam division, also for the purpose of experiment, that two out of the four farms should have cattle farms attached to them, that more veterinary hospitals should be opened, one for each revenue division, and lastly that he should be given a suitably fitted laboratory for research work. Orders have not yet been passed on these proposals. They are engaging the consideration of His Highness' Government.

You are aware that the cocoanut palm disease has been, for several years past, prevalent in parts of North and Central Travancore and that it has already caused considerable loss to cocoanut cultivation. Early in the year under review, Dr. E. J. Butler, Imperial Mycologist, visited the affected area and investigated the disease. His report, embodying the results of his investigation, was republished in the Gazette. Agricultural sheets in the Vernacular were issued, explaining the nature of the disease and the precautionary measures to be adopted. With a view to prevent the spread of the disease to the neighbouring territories, a Notification was issued prohibiting the export of cocoanut seedlings and roots from this State. After Dr. Kunjan Pillai's appointment as Director, he followed up Dr. Butler's investigations and made certain proposals for combating the disease. These proposals have been adopted and a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been placed at Dr. Kunjan Pillai's disposal for conducting the experiments, recommended by him, in selected gardens affected by the disease. Mr. Narayanaswami Aiyar, the Superintendent of the Trivandrum Farm, is now on special duty for the purpose in North Travancore, and I take this opportunity, of the presence here of several land-holders from the affected taluks, to solicit their co-operation with our officers in the matter of these experiments.

***15. General.***—On the whole, I am glad to be able to say that there was substantial improvement in the work of the Land Revenue department during the year; and for this, credit is due to the Division Peishkars and Tahsildars generally. Much however yet remains to be done, and I trust that these officers will not relax their efforts till they make the revenue administration current in every branch. To strengthen the hands of the Division Peishkars in controlling their staff and also o reduce the volume of petty work coming into the Huzur Office, the Peishkars were given increased powers during the year, in regard to the appointment, transfer and punishment of and grant of leave to their subordinates, and also in administrative matters, such as the disposal of revenue cases, &c. The weak point in the revenue administration is the inefficiency of the subordinate staff. It is complained that the pay is generally inadequate, and probably in some cases the staff is excessive. The question of revising the subordinate revenue establishments engaged the consideration of His Highness' Government during the year. Final orders have however not yet been passed.

## Legislation.

***16.*** Four ordinary meetings and one special meeting of the Legislative Council were held during the year. No Regulation was finally passed, but several Bills were

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